

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0664

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

UNCLAS LISBON 4221

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES PROMISES NO MAJOR CHANGES  
IN WAKE OF CRISIS

SUMMARY: PM GONCALVES PROMISES ONLY TWO MINISTERIAL SLOTS  
WILL BE CHANGED IN NEW GOVERNMENT, AND THAT NO CONSTITUTIONAL  
OR MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES FORESEEN. DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT  
(MDP/CDE) WILL NOT ENTER GOVERNMENT, AND RUMORED CREATION OF  
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND ABOLITION OF JUNTA DENIED. PROGRAM  
OF AFM, INCLUDING ELECTORAL SCHEDULE AND GOAL OF DEOMCRATIC  
PLURALISM, WILL BE FULFILLED AS POINT OF HONOR. PM, UNLIKE  
SPINOLA, OPTIMISTIC REGARDING PORTUGAL'S FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. BRIG. VASCO GONCALVES, IN INTERVIEW GRANTED NATIONAL  
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AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN A FEW HOURS AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT AS

PRIME MINISTER, PROMISED THAT NO MAJOR CHANGES ARE FORECAST IN MAKEUP OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT DEFENSE AND MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS SLOTS ARE VACANT AS A RESULT OF DEPARTURE OF COL. MIGUEL AND MAJ. SANCHES OSORIO. PM SAID NO REPLACEMENTS HAVE BEEN DECIDED UPON YET FOR THESE JOBS. PM REMARKED THAT IT WAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY WOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST OR WOULD BECOME A SECRETARIAT OF STATE UNDER HIS OFFICE. AT ANY RATE PM'S OFFICE WOULD IN FUTURE "PLAY A VERY DIRECT ROLE IN RELATION TO INFORMATION" GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION AS AN IDEOLOGICAL WEAPON. THE EMISSORA NACIONAL RADIO AND TRP (STATE TELEVISION) WILL HAVE TO EXPRESS MORE VIGOROUSLY AND CORRECTLY IN THE FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL POINTS OF VIEW ABOUT MAJOR NATIONAL PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THERE WOULD BE CENSORSHIP OR STATE REPRESSION OF THE MEDIA.

2. PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION LINKING EITHER SPINOLA OR THE THREE JUNTA MEMBERS WHO WERE REMOVED WITH THE "RECENT EVENTS". SPINOLA WAS CHARACTERIZED AS THE VICTIM OF A CAMPAIGN WHICH USED HIS NAME FOR PURPOSES WHICH WERE CONTRARY TO HIM AND PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY. REGARDING THE THREE JUNTA MEMBERS, THE PM ONLY SAID THAT "DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT DEMOCRATS", BUT "THESE GENTLEMEN WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY COUP ATTEMPT". REGARDING SANCHEZ OSORIO, GONCALVES DENIED A REPORT THAT HE WOULD BE TRIED FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES, EXPLAINING THAT BECAUSE OF "SITUATIONS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE CRISIS HE CANNOT CONTINUE AS MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER". NO EXPLANATION WAS MADE OF THE REASONS LEADING TO COL. MIGUEL'S DEPARTURE.

3. PM ALSO DENIED IN INTERVIEW THAT A REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WOULD BE CREATED AND THAT THE NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA WOULD BE ABOLISHED. (PRESS HAD SPECULATED THAT A 137-MAN COUNCIL COMPOSED OF 60 ARMY, 30 NAVY AND 30 AIR FORCE, PLUS 7 MEMBERS OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF AFM WOULD BE FORMED AS THE SUPREME DIRECTIVE ORGAN OF THE COUNTRY). VARIOUS LEADERSHIP ORGANS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED AND LEGALIZED BY THE 25TH OF APRIL MOVEMENT, EXPLAINED PM, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND OUR FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE IS TO FULFILL THE ARMED FORCES PROGRAM AS IT ORIGINALLY WRITTEN.

4. PROBABILITY THAT DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE INVITED TO FORM PART OF THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS BRUSHED ASIDE AS "UNLIKELY" BY PM GIVEN THAT ONLY TWO SLOTS OPEN IN NEW GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER PM TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO PRAISE MDP/CDE FOR THE

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ROLE IT HAS BEEN PLAYING (PRESUMABLY DURING CRISIS WHEN ITS MILITANTS PROVIDED MANY OF THE FORCES MANNING THE CHECKPOINTS ERECTED ON VARIOUS HIGHWAYS TO SEARCH FOR ARMS, BUT PERHAPS ALSO FOR INTELLIGENCE FURNISHED BY IT TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING "REACTIONARY MANEUVERS").

5. PM CONFIRMED RUMORS THAT BANK ACCOUNTS OF THOSE PERSONS INVOLVED IN "REVOLUTIONARY ATTEMPT" HAD BEEN FROZEN. ONLY THOSE PERSONS LISTED AS HAVING BEEN DETAINED ARE JAILED, AND THERE ARE NO UNANNOUNCED PRISONERS. THOSE INVOLVED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY ATTEMPT WILL BE TRIED, HE PROMISED.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REGARDING WHETHER OR NOT THE ELECTORAL SCHEDULE AS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION WOULD BE FOLLOWED, GONCALVES REMARKED GOOD HUMOREDLY THAT AS HIS FRIEND VITOR ALVES LIKES TO SAY, "LATIN PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF LIVING IN DEMOCRACY TOO". DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN DRAFTING THE ELECTORAL LAW HE SAID IT WAS "A POINT OF HONOR" THAT ELECTIONS BE CARRIED OUT ON SCHEDULE. (THE PRIME MINISTER MADE A SIMILAR POINT IN AN EARLIER INTERVIEW WITH RTP TELEVISION WHEN HE STRESSED THAT THE AFM WAS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF COMPLETING THAT PART OF ITS PROGRAM CALLING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL). "ONLY OUR ENEMIES DOUBT THE SINCERITY OF OUR PROPOSALS".

7. FINALLY, THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE AN OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE FOR PORTUGAL. HE DISAGREED WITH EX-PRESIDENT SPINOLA'S "APOCALYPTICAL AND CATASTROPHIC" VIEW OF PORTUGUESE SOCIETY. PORTUGAL IN HIS OPINION IS MARCHING NEITHER TOWARDS ECONOMIC CHAOS OR COLLAPSE. IT UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL OVERCOME ITS DIFFICULTIES WITH HARD WORK, UNITY, AND WILL. IS THERE ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, ASKED THE PM RHETORICALLY, WHICH HAS ACHIEVED AS MUCH AS PORTUGAL IN SUCH A SHORT TIME, AND WITH HARDLY A SHOT BEING FIRED? PORTUGAL, ONE OF THE OLDEST COUNTRIES IN EUROPE, WILL, HE PREDICTED, BE ABLE TO OVERCOME HER PROBLEMS.

8. PM MADE NO COMMENT ON DETAILS OR EXTENT OF THE ALLEGED REVOLUTIONARY ATTEMPT.  
SCOTT

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